

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 SOE-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 NAS-01 NSF-01 PA-01
/069 W

-----077735 151705Z /64

R 151629Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3144
USDOE WASHDC
INFO USDOE GERMANTOWN MD
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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USDOE FOR BILLY HILL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN,PINT
SUBJECT: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: FUNDAMENTAL
PROPERTIES OF MATTER (07.01): SOVIETS COMPLAIN
ABOUT A LACK OF U.S. RESPONSE AND DELEGATION POSTPONEMENT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 11473, (B) STATE 129625

1. IN 13 JUNE MEETING AT SCAE, ATOMIC ENERGY
BILATERAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY VASIL'YEV STATED THAT
SOVIETS ARE "TROUBLED" BY TWO DEVELOPMENTS IN COOPERA-
TIVE PROGRAM ON FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER:

(A) SYNCHROTRON EXCHANGE: AFTER REVIEWING 1977 JOINT
DISCUSSIONS AND VISIT POSTPONEMENT FOR SYNCHROTRON
COOPERATION, VASIL'YEV STATED THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED AT ATOMIC ENERGY JCM, AND THAT PETROSYANTS,
THORNE, CHUVILO, AND KANE HAD AGREED ON DESIRABILITY
TO PURSUE EXCHANGE. VASIL'YEV COMPLAINED THAT U.S. HAS
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NOT, HOWEVER, MADE ANY CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR TIMING
OF VISITS, AND SOVIETS ARE CONCERNED. VASIL'YEV-
SAID THAT SOVDEL COULD GO TO U.S. AT ANY TIME UP TO
NOVEMBER, BUT IF VISIT DOES NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE
NOVEMBER, SOVIETS MUST RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDE THAT U.S.
IS NOT INTERESTED. SOVIETS WILL THEN DROP
SYNCHROTRON RREPARATIONS FROM THEIR BUDGETING PLANS.

IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS'S QUESTION, VASIL'YEV SAID THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE A U.S. DELEGATION AT ANY TIME, SO LONG AS THERE IS AT LEAST A 30-DAY PERIOD FOR PREPARATIONS. SOVIETS ARE UNCONCERNED WHETHER SOVDEL OR USDEL VISIT OCCURS FIRST.

(B) BROMLEY VISIT POSTPONEMENT: CITING BROMLEY VISIT SCHEDULED 24 MAY - 9 JUNE, VASIL'YEV STATED THAT SCAE HAD WORKED HARD TO DEVELOP AN EXCELLENT ITINERARY FOR DELEGATION, INCLUDING GROUP VISITS TO TWO INSTITUTES EACH IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD, PLUS OTHER INSTITUTES IN KIEV, KHARKOV, TASHKENT, AND NOVOSIBIRSK. IN ADDITION SCAE WAS ABLE TO ARRANGE A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL VISITS FOR SPECIFIC DELEGATION MEMBERS TO OTHER INSTITUTES IN MOSCOW, AND HAD ARRANGED A FULL CULTURAL PROGRAM. SCAE THUS "FULFILLED ALL THE WISHES OF THE U.S. DELEGATION." VASIL'YEV SAID THAT SOVIETS WERE SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN AT LAST MINUTE OF POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT (REFTELS), AND THAT SCAE INCURRED FINANCIAL LOSSES FROM RESERVATIONS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND TRAVEL. FURTHERMORE, SOVIET SCIENTISTS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE U.S. DELEGATION HAD "NEGATIVE REACTIONS" OVER THE POSTPONEMENT. VASIL'YEV SAID THAT INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTES AND SCIENTISTS HAD ALSO DONE MUCH PREPARATIVE WORK FOR THIS DELEGATION, AND LAST MINUTE POSTPONEMENTS "DO NOT HELP TO DEVELOP COOPERATION." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HE EXPRESSED "PERSONAL FEAR" THAT SCAE WILL ENCOUNTER GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN ORGANIZING FURTHER COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES. IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS'S QUESTION ON AREAS WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED, VASIL'YEV SAID THAT EFFECT WOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE INSTITUTES AND INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER WORKING GROUP. THERE WOULD BE NO EFFECTS ON COOPERATION IN FUSION OR BREEDERS. IN RESPONSE, SCICOUNS NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY SUPPORTS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION IN ATOMIC ENERGY, AND THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE VISIT WAS MADE BY INDIVIDUAL U.S. SCIENTISTS IN REACTION TO THE ORLOV CONVICTION. THEIR DECISION WAS BY NO MEANS AN EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY SCAE. SCICOUNS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE USG HAS NO ABILITY TO SECURE THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUAL US SCIENTISTS OR DELEGATIONS WHO DECIDE NOT TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION BECAUSE OF MATTERS INVOLVING PERSONAL CONSCIENCE. IN RESPONSE TO SCICOUNS'S QUESTION, VASIL'YEV SAID THAT SOVIETS DID NOT INTEND TO CONTACT BROMLEY DIRECTLY ON THE MATTER, BUT WANTED TO EXPLAIN THEIR CONCERNS TO SCICOUNS FOR TRANSMITTAL BACK TO WASHINGTON.

2. COMMENT: VASIL'YEV UNCHARACTERISTICALLY STARTED HIS DEMARCHE WITH FORMAL STATEMENT THAT AS SOVIET EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HE WANTED TO REVIEW THE OVERALL STATUS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT. HE THEN DEALT BRIEFLY BUT MOST POSITIVELY WITH FUSION AND BREEDER COOPERATION, USING THEM TO COUNTERPOINT HIS REAL MESSAGE: SCAE'S CURRENT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH FPM COOPERATION. THE DEMARCHE WAS MILD IN TONE, AND NEAR THE MINIMAL REACTION THAT COULD BE EXPECTED FROM THE SCAE AFTER THE BROMLEY DEL CANCELLATION. NEITHER VASIL'YEV OR PUSTYNTSEV (WHO ALSO PARTICIPATED) DISPUTED SCICOUNS STATEMENT THAT THE USG CANNOT AND WILL NOT PUSH US SCIENTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFICIALLY SPONSORED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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/069 W

-----077749 151706Z /64

R 151629Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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EXCHANGES AGAINST THEIR OWN CONSCIENCES. WE INTERPRET VASIL'YEV'S DEMARCHE AS MORE OF AN EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF FPM, AND AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN A READING ON US ATTITUDES, RATHER THAN AS A REGISTRATION OF A "PROTEST". END COMMENT. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, AGREEMENT, ITINERARY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SCIENTIFIC VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW13813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780250-0866
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780656/aaaabwez.tel
Line Count: 169
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4b956088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 11473, 78 STATE 129625
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2340320
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: FUNDAMENTAL PROPERTIES OF MATTER (07.01): SOVIETS COMPLAIN ABOUT A LACK OF U.S. RESPONSE AND DELEGATION POSTP
TAGS: TGEN, PINT, UR, US
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4b956088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014